

ABSTRACT

Transmissions within a communication channel utilized by devices of a computer network that are outside of a device's designated time slot are accommodated through the use of a clear channel assessment time. The clear channel assessment time takes into account the device's designated transmission time slot within the communication channel with respect to those of other network devices. Thus, the clear channel assessment time may be a time period that is the product of a predetermined clear channel waiting time and a numerical representation of the difference between the device's designated transmission time slot within the communication channel and that of another network device that completed a preceding transmission. The clear channel waiting time may be specified by a network master device as part of a network connection process and the transmissions within the channel outside of a device's designated time slot may be accommodated after all regularly scheduled transmissions within the channel during a network frame period have been completed.